

U.S.S.N. 09/998,103

REMARKS – General**Amendments:**

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8. Specifically, the preamble has been amended to recite a -- device -- rather than a “unit”, so as to provide proper antecedent basis for the remainder of the claim. Support for this amendment is found in claims 1 and 8 as originally filed (elements following the preambles). Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment was made to correct a typographical error, and not for the statutory reasons relating to patentability.

Rejections:

The Office Action (OA) rejects claims 1-11 as being unpatentable over Kinzalow et al., US Pat. No. 6,052,603, hereinafter “Kinzalow”, in view of Hadley et al., US Pat. No. 5,243,640, hereinafter “Hadley”.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. With respect to independent claims 1, 5 and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kinzalow and Hadley fails to teach all of Applicants’ claimed limitations. In making the traversal, Applicants rely upon MPEP §2142, which states that for a prima facie case of obviousness, “...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Hadley and Kinzalow fails to teach a connector for coupling to a radio back plate, as claimed by Applicants. Applicants note that the OA submits that such a connector is taught in Kinzalow at col. 5, lines 15-22. Applicants respectfully submit that this section of Kinzalow fails to teach such a connector. Applicants note that Kinzalow instead teaches a “connector free”, wireless connection to the radio. Specifically, Kinzalow teaches a radio frequency connection to the radio by way of an antenna. At col. 5, lines 1-14, Kinzalow states:

Incoming communication signals received by the phone antenna 14 from an external communications cell 66 are converted to audio signals by the phone 12 and sent to the interface 10, where the converter 58 converts the signals from audio frequency to radio frequency. The radio frequency signals are then

U.S.S.N. 09/998,103

transmitted by the radio frequency transmitter 60 to the radio receiver 20 via the interface antenna 26 and the radio antenna 18. In accordance with one embodiment, the transmitter 60 transmits the signals at a predetermined frequency for transmission over a selected FM or AM radio frequency. The signals are received by the radio antenna 18 and radio receiver 20, and are amplified by the radio amplifier 22 for reproduction over the radio speakers 24.

Applicants note that the socket 32 to which the OA refers is a socket 32 in the phone 12, not on the back plane of a radio.

Second, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination fails to teach a connector for coupling to the back plane of the radio, wherein the connector comprises an audio signal and a mute signal, wherein the mute signal is actuated with data is transmitted from the device to the back plate, as claimed by Applicants. The OA asserts that Hadley teaches such a connector in FIG. 3. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

To begin, Applicants note that the mute and audio signals of FIG. 3 of Hadley are not part of a connector for coupling to a radio back plate. They are instead internal electrical signals coupled to an amplifier in an interface unit.

Next, Applicants respectfully submit that the mute signal of Hadley is not actuated when data is transmitted, as claimed by Applicants. Applicants note that in FIG. 3 of Hadley, when the mute signal 36 is actuated, the amplifier 33 is disabled, thereby preventing audio 35 from reaching the speakers 34. Hadley uses this mute to avoid spurious noises when data *is not being transmitted*. For example at col. 3, lines 13-16, Hadley states, "Amplifier 33 is preferably muted during the turning on of radio 25 or phone 26 to avoid noises being produced over speaker 34." Emphasis added. Similarly, Hadley states at col. 3, lines 37-39, "Preferably, the amplifier continues to be muted for a brief period after turning on of the radio to avoid "pops". A typical delay of about 1.5 seconds is desirable." To be sure, the mute signal is not active when audio is transmitted to the amplifier, as it would never reach the speakers. By contrast, Applicants actuate the mute signal when data is being transmitted, as recited in claim 1.

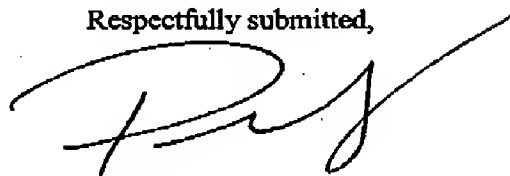
As the combination of Kinzalow and Hadley fails to teach all of Applicants' claimed limitations, Applicants respectfully submit that the §103 rejection is overcome.

U.S.S.N. 09/998,103

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Applicants believe this application is now in condition for allowance, for which they respectfully submit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Burrus, IV', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Philip H. Burrus, IV

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No.: 45,432

770-338-3614 (fax 3557)